[25th March 1929

(b) the number of motor cars plying for hire in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency at the end of 1928;

(c) the number of motor buses plying for hire in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency at the end of 1928;

(d) the number of accidents (1) to motor cars and (2) to motor buses in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency attended with injuries to persons and loss of life in 1928;

(e) the number of persons who have suffered injuries and of those whose lives were lost as the result of motor car and bus accidents in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency in 1928; and

(f) the main causes of these accidents in the order of their frequency?

A.—Information is not available but has been called for.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know if the Government do not get this information for their own purposes?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"There is no necessity."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government do not find this information necessary, useful to them in considering whether any action is necessary in the matter of preventing accidents and for regulating traffic?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Whenever we want this information, we can get it."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know whether it is not the duty of the Government to see that these accidents on the roads on account of motor traffic are brought to a minimum and whether the public are not entitled to get these statistics?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"It is our duty and we are doing our best."

Regulation of motor traffic in the districts.

* 1864 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the number of motor accidents has decreased in 1928 as compared with that in 1927 and if so in what proportion;

(b) what steps have been taken to control and regulate the speed of buses run by motor service companies in the different districts of this Presidency; and

(c) whether any further restrictions have been imposed on the granting of driving licences and if so, what they are?

A.—Information is not available but has been called for.

Administration Report

Administration reports under the hon. the Member for Finance.

* 1865 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing—

(a) the administration reports of the several departments under his control for the years 1927-28 and 1928-29;

(b) the month in which they were received by Government;
(c) the months in which they were published with reviews; and

(ii) to state whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to place them before the public at an earlier date?

A—(i) & (ii).—The statement is nil.

Administration reports under the hon. the Law Member.

*1866 *Q*.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing—
(a) the administration reports of the several departments under his control for the years 1927–28 and 1928–29;
(b) the month in which they were received by Government;
(c) the months in which they were published with reviews; and

(ii) to state whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to place them before the public at an earlier date?

A.—(i) (a) *to* (c) A statement [a] is appended. Reports for 1928–29 are due only after the close of March 1929.

(ii) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1841.

Forests

Loss sustained in the Mount Stuart concern.

*1867 *Q*.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the loss sustained in exploitation operations in the Mount Stuart reserve is;

(b) why such loss was sustained; and

(c) which officers, if any, were responsible for it?

A.—(a) The loss incurred in the concern from the date of its commercialization is Rs. 1,71,548, of which the loss sustained during 1926–27 is Rs. 1,55,178-3-1 and that during 1927–28 is Rs. 16,369-9-2.

(b) As regards the loss sustained during 1926–27, the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to paragraphs 4—7 of the audit report of the concern which has been placed on the Council table with G.O. Press No. 1172, Development, dated 16th July 1928. The audit report of the concern for 1927–28 is still under the consideration of Government. The Auditor's report indicates that the sawn timber trading is chiefly responsible for the loss in this case.

(c) In the circumstances given in answer to clause (b) no particular officer or officers connected with the concern can be held responsible for the loss.

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[a] Printed as Appendix IX on pages 823-824 infra.